

Transforming Lives

By Meeting the Functional Literacy Needs of Adults in Richardson and the RISD

Richardson Adult Literacy Center

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News to Use April 2009

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Training

The next **training** for **new tutors** is scheduled for April 18, 10:15-3:00 pm.

Let your friends know about it!

E-mail Literacy@RALC.org or call the RALC office 972-644-5119 for more information.

Tutor **Roundtable** for **current tutors**:

May 5, Richardson Public Library

11:00 am, basement training room **or**

7:00 pm, adult services workroom (check in at 2nd floor desk for directions)

Bring questions, suggestions, and ideas to share!

R.S.V.P to the office 972-644-5119 or e-mail

Literacy@RALC.org.

Looking ahead:

The office will close for the summer on May 29.

If you need books or materials for the summer, please order them by May 20 to assure delivery. Just call or e-mail the office.

Monthly report

Please remember to submit your report with your volunteer hours and student updates. They are due by the 10th of the month.

Share ideas!

We would like this newsletter to become an exchange platform where we all can learn from one another. Just send an e-mail with tips, ideas, suggestions, questions, reports on tutoring experiences etc.

RALC Calendar

The office is closed on April 10.

The next RALC Board Meeting is scheduled for April 21.

From the Executive Director

The tutors are the backbone of our organization!

We find that our student requests for services are becoming much more numerous. Other programs in the area are having economic problems; a library program in Plano will be ended because the city has completely withdrawn funding. Our students' families are suffering layoffs and cutbacks on work hours, which means they cannot pay for instruction at the local community college. And that's why we need our wonderful tutors more than ever. Several former tutors have inquired about being "reactivated," and we welcome Ted Dornseifer and Rita Kilborn back to the active ranks. Please encourage your friends to consider tutoring for the RALC.

As you know, the RALC is accredited by ProLiteracy, the international literacy organization. It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating our reaccreditation. But four years have passed; our application for another reaccreditation has been approved. We are in the rather daunting process of gathering documentation and working on meeting the sixteen standards.

Our Board members have agreed to take an active role so we are off and running. Please let me know (literacy@RALC.org) if you have suggestions for improving our organization.

April is National Volunteer month. This is a time when the work of volunteers all over the country is recognized. Hopefully, you feel appreciated every month of the year! But please know that the RALC is thriving because of your dedication to your students. Thank you.

Mimi

Tip of the Month

Some thoughts on **lesson planning**:

Writing a lesson plan offers a systematic and structured approach to tutoring. In doing so, the upcoming tutoring session can be anticipated and different possible turns or outcomes can be considered. Keeping a lesson plan at hand or in mind –understood as a plan only and not unalterable – can help you remain open towards a student’s contribution and yet keep up with the teaching goals.

Almost all lesson plans contain assumed student learning objectives, instructional procedures, the required materials, and some points on how the student(s) will be evaluated.

Experienced tutors may reduce a lesson plan to a mental map or short outline. In the beginning, detailed lesson plans may be helpful.

Check out your Tutor Handbook for further information on preparation and some lesson plan forms.

Look for **free online courses** on many **literacy related topics** at:
<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/TLN/courses>

Thinkfinity Literacy Network (TLN) is part of Thinkfinity.org, the Verizon Foundation’s education and literacy platform. TLN features content specific to the adult and family literacy communities. It offers free online courses, best practices, program assessment tools, teaching and learning tools etc.

If your student has young children you might share this with them:

Kirk Miller, one of our tutors, recommends **Between The Lions**, a PBS TV show that should help students (children 4 to 7 years old) learn English.

Sesame Street helps young children learn numbers and the alphabet. Between The Lions works in a similar fashion to help develop reading and writing skills. Here are the show's goals (taken from their website):

- Dramatize the benefits of reading.
- Show that learning to read and spell can be a struggle, but a worthwhile one.

- Show that there are many reasons to write.
- Introduce new vocabulary words and their meanings.
- Show how words work through phonemics, alphabetic principle and spelling conventions.

Between The Lions airs on channel 13 at 2:00 - 2:30 pm Monday – Friday. The shows website is

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/tvprograms/program-lions.html>

Have you checked out our training DVD?

Get your own copy! Call 972-644-5119 or stop by the office!

Contact Us

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